

CLAIMS

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising ginsenoside Rb<sub>1</sub>, its metabolites or salt thereof for prevention, treatment or therapy of diseases caused by injuries to the nervous tissues or to the spinal cord.

2. The pharmaceutical composition for prevention, treatment or therapy according to claim 1, comprising suppressing the secondary degeneration of the nervous tissues caused by injuries to the nervous tissues.

3. The pharmaceutical composition for prevention, treatment or therapy according to claim 2 wherein the nervous tissue having the secondary degeneration is the thalamus after cerebrocortical infarction.

4. The pharmaceutical composition for prevention, treatment or therapy according to claim 2 or 3 wherein disease causing the secondary degeneration of the nervous tissues is spinal cord injury.

5. The pharmaceutical composition for prevention, treatment or therapy according to claim 1 wherein said prevention, treatment or therapy is achieved by means of vascular regeneration and/or reconstruction of the injured nervous tissues or spinal cord.

6. The pharmaceutical composition for prevention, treatment or therapy according to claim 5 wherein the blood vessels are

~~cerebral blood vessels.~~

67. The pharmaceutical composition for prevention, treatment or therapy according to claim 1 wherein the diseases caused by injuries to the nervous tissues or to the spinal cord are traumatic injuries.

78. The pharmaceutical composition for prevention, treatment or therapy according to ~~claim 1~~ wherein the diseases caused by injuries to the nervous tissues or to the spinal cord are demyelination.

88. The pharmaceutical composition for prevention, treatment or therapy according to claim 1 wherein the diseases caused by injuries to the nervous tissues or to the spinal cord are spinal cord injuries.

910. The pharmaceutical composition for prevention, treatment or therapy according to ~~claim 8~~<sup>7</sup> or ~~8~~<sup>8</sup> comprising suppressing apoptosis or apoptosis-like cell death of oligodendrocytes.

11. The pharmaceutical composition for prevention, treatment or therapy according to any one of claims 1 - 10 comprising the preparations for intravenous administration.

12. The pharmaceutical composition for prevention, treatment or therapy according to any one of claims 1 - 10 comprising the preparations for a single intravenous infusion or the preparations for continuous intravenous administration.

1413. A pharmaceutical composition comprising ginsenoside Rb<sub>1</sub>, its metabolites or salt thereof for promoting vascular

regeneration and/or reconstruction.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising ginsenoside  $Rb_1$ , its metabolites or salt thereof for prevention, treatment or therapy of the secondary degeneration of the nervous tissues.

15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising ginsenoside  $Rb_1$ , its metabolites or salt thereof for prevention of deterioration of traumatic injuries to the nervous tissues or to the spinal cord or for treatment or therapy of traumatic injuries to the nervous tissues or to the spinal cord.

16. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 15 wherein traumatic injuries are spinal cord injuries, neurotrauma, or head injuries.

17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising ginsenoside  $Rb_1$ , its metabolites or salt thereof for suppressing apoptosis or apoptosis-like cell death of oligodendrocytes.

18. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17 wherein diseases causing apoptosis or apoptosis-like cell death of the oligodendrocytes are spinal cord injuries.

19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising ginsenoside  $Rb_1$ , its metabolites or salt thereof for prevention, treatment or therapy of demyelination.

20. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 19 wherein diseases causing demyelination are spinal cord injuries.

~~21. A method for exploring novel active compounds or~~

~~compositions for prevention, treatment or therapy of diseases of the nervous tissues or the spinal cord comprising using ginsenoside Rb<sub>1</sub> or its metabolites as a leading compound(s).~~

22. The method according to claim 21 wherein the diseases of the nervous tissues or the spinal cord are the diseases caused by injuries to the nervous tissues or to the spinal cord.

23. The method according to claim 21 or 22 wherein the diseases of the nervous tissues or the spinal cord are spinal cord injuries or neurotrauma.

24. ~~Pharmaceutical compositions for prevention, treatment or therapy of diseases of the nervous tissues or the spinal cord as obtained by the method according to any one of claims 21 -~~

~~23.~~

25. Use of ginsenoside Rb<sub>1</sub> or its metabolites as the leading compound(s) for exploring novel active compounds or compositions for prevention, treatment or therapy of diseases of the nervous tissues or the spinal cord.

26. Use of ginsenoside Rb<sub>1</sub> or its metabolites as the leading compound(s) for exploring novel brain cell-protective agents or nerve cell-protective agents.

27. Use of ginsenoside Rb<sub>1</sub>, its metabolites or salt thereof for production of pharmaceutical compositions for prevention, treatment or therapy of diseases caused by injuries to the nervous tissues or to the spinal cord.

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